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UNCLAS MAPUTO 000860

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/IP/FPO, AF/EX, AF/S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC MZ

SUBJECT: STRIKING GUARDS AGREE TO RETURN TO WORK

REF: A. A. MAPUTO 00834

1B. B. MAPUTO 00846

1C. C. MAPUTO 00849

1D. D. MAPUTO 00858

11. SUMMARY. As reported in Refs A through C, individual employees of the local guard force contracted through Wackenhet have been striking since July 5. As stated in Ref D, the EAC met again on July 8 both to discuss the latest guard strike situation and to discuss the London bombings and the Embassy's current security posture. Wackenhet officials met with the guard union on July 8 and reached an agreement for the guards to return to work and arbitration to begin immediately. An All Call will be conducted at 1000, July 9, to update all direct hire Americans of the guard strike situation.

12. All residences had coverage last night, partly due to the 21 subcontracted guards Wackenhet hired. However, some guards continue to work consecutive 12 hour shifts. This situation should be resolved by the next shift change. The U.S. Embassy and U.S.AID had 5 guards each causing the Embassy to be at approximately 40% and U.S.AID to be at 50% of their normal guard staffing. Peace Corps, Public Affairs and the GSO Warehouse each had 2 guards causing each entity to be at 66% of their normal guard staffing. All U.S. agencies again were fully operational but were closed to visitors. CDC's one guard left the morning of July 7 and never returned. Wackenhet sent a guard replacement at approximately 1300 July 8, but CDC had closed for the weekend and secured its office.

13. Wackenhet requested and received police support to remove strikers from Wackenhet headquarters prior to the scheduled 1000 meeting between Wackenhet officials and the guard union. Most of the strikers departed the area without incident. Approximately 50 strikers remain as of 1500, July 8.

14. Wackenhet's Regional President for Southern Africa and Human Resources Director met 6 guard union representatives in the presence of officials from the Ministries of Labor and Interior. Wackenhet and the guard union signed an agreement that the guards would return to work, the strikers would not block access to the Wackenhet headquarters, and arbitration would begin immediately. RSO and Wackenhet Program Manager agreed that guards will begin wearing their Wackenhet uniforms at the next shift change. If the next 24 hours remain calm, Wackenhet will turn the radio network on and the house alarms will then be connected to the regular Wackenhet command center thus providing instant response by Mobile Patrols. RSO and Wackenhet Program Manager will continue to conduct random checks on all guard posts.

15. Information from this cable will be shared at Post's EAC meeting scheduled for 0800, Monday, July 11.  
Dudley